Unregistered Medical Practitioners in the country

*372. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey as to the number of unregistered medical practioners/quacks providing medical services in the country and the risk to the life of millions of people posed by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the provisions of law against such malpractices and action taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Penal provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as well as in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practice medicine in any State and any person contravening this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. The Government of India had advised the State Governments/ U.Ts to take action against unqualified practitioners. State Governments of Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have reported that they have initiated action against such unqualified practitioners.

Timing publicised by Doordarshan for telecast of opening ceremony of Atlanta Olympics

*373. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecasting time of the opening ceremony of Centennial Olympics at Atlanta was wrongly publicised by the Doordarshan i.e., instead of 5.30 a.m. it was indicated 6.30 p.m.;

(b) whether this deprived the people to witness the opening ceremony; and

(c) whether Government have enquired into the matter as to how the wrong timings were given by the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensation to local bodies for abolition of Octroi

*374. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving adequate compensation to local bodies in lieu of abolition of octroi; and

(b) if so, by when it is proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government of India is neither providing, nor there is any proposal before its consideration for providing compensation to local bodies in the States in lieu of abolition of Octroi.

The position in respect of the Union Territories is as follows:—

A. Union Territories without Legislature:

(a) *Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli:*—

No terminal tax was levied in these Union Territories and the position continues to be same.

(b) *Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep:*—

They have been allowed to continue levy of terminal tax in view of their unique geographical location.

(c) *Daman & diu:*—

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the UT Administration is being adequately compensated.

B. **Union Territories with Legislature:—**

(a) *Pondicherry:—*

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the UT Administration is compensating the local bodies adequately. While assessing the gap in the resources of UT for the purpose of Central assistance, the compensation paid to the local bodies is taken into account.

(b) *National Capital Territory of Delhi:—*

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the local bodies are being suitably compensated (by Government of NCT of Delhi).

Proposal to introduce tele-medicine service in Government Hospitals in Metropolitan cities

*375. DR. Y. LASKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFAE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tele-medicine service in Government Hospitals in Metropolitan cities on the pattern of Aashlok Hospital tied up with International Network of Medical Communications of New York;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The proposal received was not found to be cost effective for catering to the needs of the general public in rural areas and weaker sections of society.

Infighting of AIR staff at Nagpur

*376. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the infighting of the senior staff of the All India Radio, Nagpur has seriously and adversely affected the functioning of the radio station at Nagpur;

(b) by when will the situation improve and people get proper programmes;

(c) what factors are responsible for the dismal performance of the Nagpur station; and

(d) what steps will be taken to see that the functioning of the radio station improves?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (d) The Government are aware of occasional coverage in the local press about the alleged mal-functioning of AIR, Nagpur due to differences between some senior officers at the station. There was also a demand for the transfer of the Superintending Engineer of the station on account of his long stay at Nagpur. The Superintending Engineer has since been transferred and the other concerned officer has been cautioned to be careful in future. There has not, however, been any adverse effect on the performance/functioning of the AIR Station on this account.

Revision of Anti-Defection Law

*377. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering revision of Anti-defection Law contained in Tenth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, whether all the parties have agreed for this purpose; and

(c) if so, when Government propose to introduce the legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) The proposal regarding amendment to the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is one of the several proposal which are shortly to be discussed by Government with the leaders of the political parties. Depending upon the consensus reached amongst political parties, Government would consider making suitable amendment to the Tenth Schedule.